

# ALEPPO NEWS

*Monthly*

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No. 6

## WHY I AM A SHRINER

A FEW days ago a brother asked me a very simple question, i.e., "Why did you join the Shrine?" I doubt not that every Shriner has been asked the same question and I am wondering how many of you have ever taken the time out to seriously analyze your answer.

First, I am a Shriner because I am a Mason. No Shriner should ever forget this.

Second, because I am either a Knight Templar or a Thirty-second Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and it is equally important that this not be forgotten.

To some the above statements may sound just a little trite. Let us analyze them. In the first three degrees we are taught the tenets of a good moral life by the study of a fundamental, thought-provoking, serious philosophy. Any man who passes through the first three degrees and is not impressed and humbled by the magnitude of its serious philosophy, has missed the very essence of Masonry.

In the York Rite the Mason travels in hand with this deep inspiring idealism until he has earned the right or privilege to wear the Cross and Crown symbolizing his acceptance of its great Christian principles. Someone has coined the phrase, "The Bulwark of Christendom," and it is my humble opinion that no organization outside the church so well deserves this title as the York Rite.

In the Scottit Rite we take the Mason back to the beginning of recorded history and attempt to teach him, not what men believe, but why they believe as they do. Then we lead him on up through the philosophy and belief of the middle ages, until finally he finds himself face to face with that high idealism of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and is taught the immeasurable worth of the individual man, which in its final analysis is true Americanism.

By now you are ready to ask, "What has this to do with becoming a Shriner?" Just this — any thinking man who has been accorded the privilege of Masonic teaching must inevitably be impressed by the great inequalities which exist in our present social structure and equally depressed by his inability to correct them. Too much such serious thought often leads either to pessimism, moral confusion or complete rejection and mental anarchy. Such a man must have periods of relaxation. This is the field in which the Shrine rightly func-

tions, and is not excelled by any other body. It offers a retreat where thinking men may associate themselves with other thinking men and without laying aside one iota of their Masonry still find respite from life's complexities by relaxing for a few hours in clean, wholesome companionship and fun. No other organization compares with it and my Masonic life was not complete until I found the Shrine. That, my brethren, is why I am a Shriner.

By MARTIN L. PHILLIPS in  
Yaarab Basharat.



## FORMER FOOTBALL STAR PAYS TRIBUTE TO SHRINE HOSPITALS

DURING a recent radio broadcast over a national hookup, the former football hero and Air Corp Pilot, Tom Harmon, paid great tribute to the Shriners of North America for their work for unfortunate crippled children through the Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children.

In the broadcast, Mr. Harmon said: "What I want to say on this the Shriners' Radio Program, can be delivered in nothing flat. It's just this: God gave me two good legs. Legs to let me play football — legs to let me find my way back when my plane was shot down behind Japanese lines. Now some fellows aren't born with good legs. Some, unfortunately, will never get good legs. But I know of a fellow who was born without them, and received them as a gift. In a recent East-West All-Star Shrine Football classic, played at San Francisco on New Year's Day, the star of that game was a boy who once was carried into a Shriners' Hospital on a stretcher! That boy was supposed to have legs that would never walk! As far as I'm concerned, every step he took on that football field was a living, breathing tribute to the generosity of the Shriners.

"Now I guess it's no secret that I'm an Irish Catholic. Sure and all the Harmons are after bein' good Catholics. But the Shriners would never ask me about that if my little girl entered one of their hospitals. The evil forces that strike the limbs of little ones don't ask where you go to church, or how you voted, or what's the pigmentation of your skin. Neither do the Shriners. I say thank the Good Lord for men such as Philadelphia's former mayor, the great philanthropist, W. Freeland Kendrick, who saw, as a soldier, the great advances of orthopedic surgery in World

War I — who came home and enlisted the aid of all his fellow Nobles in building this monumental accomplishment, the greatest of its kind in all the world. Mr. Kendrick, as chairman of the Board of all these hospitals, has dedicated his life to the crippled children of America.

"And to you who are not Shriners, one more word: there are 400,000 crippled children in America today — 1,700 of these are on the waiting lists of the 15 Shrine Hospitals. Let's all do all we can to get those kids into the hospitals, out of their misery and back on their feet. Thank you."



## SHRINE HOSPITALITY

TO PROVE that Shriners are hospitable and the welcome sign is always out to any Shriner is found in the following letter received from one of Aleppo's Nobles, who recently joined a law firm in New York City.

Noble Bursten invites any Shriner journeying through Mt. Vernon, New York to drop in and say "Hello, Noble!" His letter of invitation which follows speaks for itself and we hope he will have many Noble visitors.

"Dear Noble Recorder:

"Although I have been unable to attend any of the meetings of Aleppo Temple for a good many years, I always treasure my Shrine Card and all that it stands for. Now that I have moved 90 miles closer to New York, from the South, I am hoping that the occasion for visiting my own Aleppo Temple may present itself in the near future. Needless to say, if any of the nobility of Aleppo Temple are in New York City or in Mt. Vernon, I will feel honored to have them communicate with me.

"If I can be of service to you, to the Temple, or to any of the Brothers, I would feel honored at being called upon to serve.

"Sincerely yours,  
"DAVID L. BURSTEN."

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ALEPO TEMPLE A.A.O.N.M.S.  
Published monthly by Aleppo Temple  
in the interests of Shrinedom

#### CRITICISM OF THE SHRINE IS CRITICISM OF ALL MASONRY

**I**N SOME localities there is a tendency on the part of some members of the prerequisite bodies to speak critically of the Shrine as an organization and of the conduct of certain individuals in particular. In doing so, they are also being critical of their own members and brothers. All members of the prerequisite bodies are not Shriners, but all Shriners are members of the prerequisite bodies. Any criticism of the Shrine, therefore, is also a criticism of the Blue Lodge and the York Rite or the Scottish Rite. Likewise, any commendation of the Shrine is also commendation of the prerequisite bodies. The Blue Lodge Mason has had one screening. The York or Scottish Rite Mason, two. A Shriner has passed both these screenings, plus a third one before being admitted to membership. We should have the "cream of the crop."

The membership of the Shrine is a composite of the membership of the other Masonic bodies. There's none perfect, no, not one. When a Shriner fails to live in accordance with the teachings and obligations received and assumed, a Blue Lodge Mason, a York or Scottish Rite Mason, has also fallen short of his high ideals.

Perhaps the most flagrant criticism is expressed in the old vaudeville gag, "A Shriner is a drunken Mason." I'm reminded of the old Greek who decided to plant for himself a grape vine. He had heard that the crushed bones of an animal is good fertilizer for grape vines, so he carefully planted his vine, crushed the bones of a lion and put around it. Still later he crushed the bones of a jackass and put around his vine. The vine grew and flourished and by and by fruited prolifically. The old man took some of the fruit and made for himself a beverage. When he tasted it he discovered that indeed the fertilizer had affected the fruit. When he drank a little of the wine he wanted to sing like a bird. When he drank more, he had the courage of a lion. When he drank even more, he behaved like a jackass. All Shriners do not get to the jackass stage. And all who do get to the jackass stage are not Shriners.

With the adoption of the Crippled Children's Hospital as a major project of the Shrine, the world's greatest philanthropy was born. Every Mason worthy of the name may rejoice in this achievement and say, "Look what we are doing," because, although he may not be one of us,

we are one with him in the brotherhood of Free Masonry. This work is done by Masons.

Let there be no dissension, therefore, between the brethren. If the Blue Lodge, the Commanderies and the Consistories do not function and flourish, the Shrine cannot. When the spring ceases to flow, the pond will eventually go dry. Let's not neglect the spring — *Exchange*.



#### 290 CANDIDATES INITIATED AT SUMMER CEREMONY

**O**N Friday, June 28, Aleppo Temple held a special summer Ceremonial and initiated its largest post-war class of candidates, numbering 290.

Although the weather was warm, 3,100 Nobles of the Mystic Shrine were in attendance to greet the neophytes and watch them cross the hot sands of the desert as prepared by the Degree Staff.

When the 3,100 Nobles had been fed and the dining room closed, it was found that the Nobility had been served to capacity and there was food to spare. However, this extra food did not go to waste, as in true Shrine spirit, the Steward rushed the perishable food to the Home for Destitute Children who must have had a fine feast, topped off with an Aleppo Strawberry Festival.

Although the weather was warm and the Nobles sat in the evening meeting in Grand Hall in their shirt sleeves, they were very happy that they were not one of the candidates who were treated to plenty of excess heat by Director Watson and his wrecking crew. However, both the Nobility and the candidates seemed to enjoy this particular Ceremonial which closed the activities of the Temple for the summer.

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#### MASONIC MEMBERSHIP

**E**XCEPTING the Lodge or symbolic Masonry, the Royal Arch Chapters contribute the largest Masonic organization in the United States, with approximately 450,000 members, and there are probably another 200,000 in other parts of the world. The next largest Masonic body is the Scottish Rite with about 350,000 in the States and perhaps 20,000 in other parts of the world.

Then follow in order the Knights Templar with approximately 250,000 and the Royal and Select Masters with about 200,000 in our own country with a large membership in other parts of the world. There are approximately 2,500,000 Master Masons in the United States and about the same number of Eastern Star members.

New York has the largest Lodge membership and Illinois the largest O.E.S. membership — *Oklahoma York Rite News*.

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# NOBLES, LET'S HAVE FUN MEMBERSHIP CONTEST!

September 9, 1946, 1:00 A.M. to November 8, 1946, Midnight

## 19 CASH PRIZES

<b>1st</b>	<b>\$350 Cash</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>\$200 Cash</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>\$300 Cash</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>\$150 Cash</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>\$ 75</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>\$250 Cash</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>\$125 Cash</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>

**10 Consolation Prizes \$25**

Open to all Nobles of Aleppo Jurisdiction Only.

Candidates received on release of jurisdiction **not** counted.

## HOW TO ENTER!

Enter the contest **today** by filling in the attached coupon and mailing to Recorder's Office,  
97 Huntington Avenue, Boston 16, Mass.

The Nobles securing the largest number of points will receive the above 19 prizes in order of number of points awarded. Points for applications will be awarded on the following basis: Each New Member 10 points; Each Affiliation 2 points; Each Reinstatement 1 point.

To start it off 10 points will be awarded to every Noble entering this contest. One extra point as a bonus for promptness will be awarded for each application for a new member received at Recorder's office between 1:00 A.M. September 9, 1946, and October 8, 1946, midnight.

Only the first signer on each application will be awarded the points in this contest.

## CONDITIONS!

Past Potentates and the Divan elected and appointed are *not* eligible to enter the contest.

This is an individual contest. Therefore any grouping of applications for the benefit of one individual will be declared unfair and the Noble or Nobles indulging in such practice will be ruled out of the contest.

## by SHARING SHRINEDOM!

Only such applications will be considered in the contest as are in the Recorder's office on or before midnight, November 8, 1946, or contained in mail received in the Recorder's office bearing government postmark before midnight of November 8, 1946.

Each application must be completely filled out and be accompanied by a check for \$75.00 made payable to Aleppo Temple, and the applicant must be accepted and initiated November 29, 1946.

## HOW TO SELL SHRINEDOM!

"How to Sell the Shrine" to a Stranger or Friend who is eligible will be mailed to you upon receipt of attached coupon below.

To each Noble entering the contest the Recorder's Office will supply a list of Knights Templar and 32nd degree Masons who are not Shriners but believed to be eligible for membership. The contestants are *not* restricted, however, to the prospects contained in this list.

## YOU CAN WIN!

Your chances of winning are as good as the next Noble's so send in your coupon *now* and don't be sorry later you didn't enter the contest.

Remember: The contest starts September 9, 1946, at 1:00 A.M. The Judges of this contest, whose decisions will be final, are:

### *Past Potentates*

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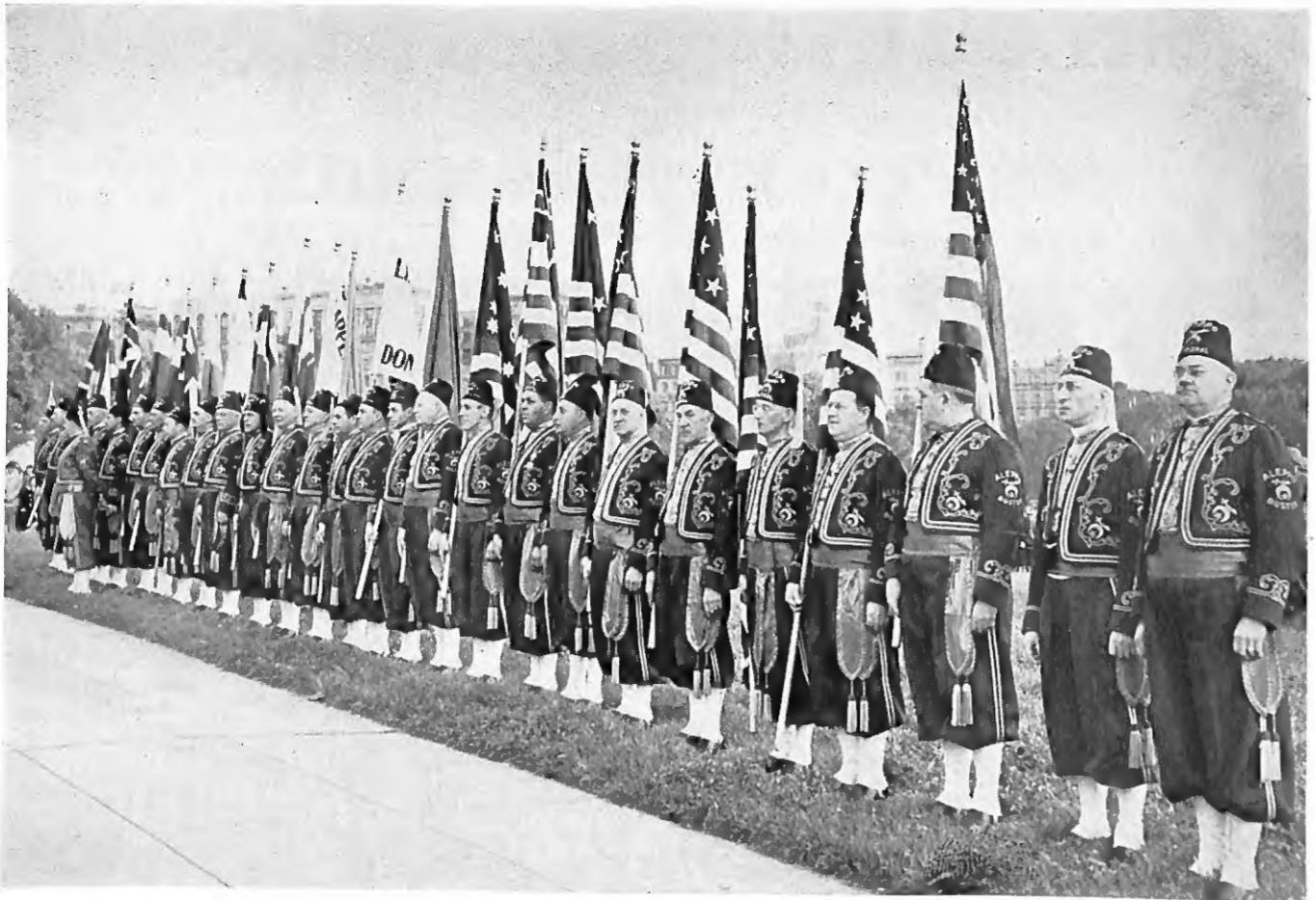
I am a member of Aleppo Temple and wish to enter the Shrine Membership Contest.

Send me "How to Sell Shrinedom," and the list of eligible prospects.

I agree to the conditions of this contest and will abide by the decisions of the Judges.

Noble \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



THE FLAGS OF THE UNITED STATES from 1630 to the present time were displayed by the Second Platoon of the Aleppo Temple Arab Patrol on Boston Common, June 14, in connection with the parade and Flag Day celebration sponsored by the City of Boston.

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By J. ARTHUR McCORY  
Associate Editor

THERE is no news this month. The members of the Patrol are sitting quietly at home, thinking about the forthcoming trip to St. John and Bangor — scanning the newspapers for news from San Francisco, where the Imperial Council is now in session, and our representatives are hobnobbing with Governor Warren, Harold Lloyd, and the other big wigs of Shrinedom. With the new Imperial Potentate a member from New York State, the sessions will be held in the east next year, and that might prove very interesting to us.

The Presiding Councils Club of the Commanderies of this district is active again. They held a meeting June 29 and elected Em. Sir Coates president for the coming year. Em. Harold Burr was elected secretary-treasurer for the fifth successive year. That fellow from Marked Tree Road, Needham, is a pretty reliable man to have around. There was a \$300 profit reported on the Knights Templar Pops Concert. Em. Clyde Carter, of the first platoon, was elected an honorary member of the Club. This organization has done a nice job in coordinating the efforts of the local commanderies and has conceived and carried out some very worth-while programs.

Gethsemane Commandery of Newtonville had an installation of officers on June 27 with Em. George H. Tracy and Em. Harold Burr doing the honors as installing officer and marshall respectively. Frank Parker of the first platoon is again treasurer. John Mahlon of the second platoon is Captain General; Louis Beaudoin, "the deerslayer," is Warder; and Harold Burr is Captain of the Guards for his thirteenth year. Harry Rodgers presided at the organ, and Franklin Field provided some of his fine solos. In spite of the fact that it was one of our hottest nights a nice crowd was on hand and dancing was thoroughly enjoyed.

More anon — much more.

## PRAYER RUG

By NOBLE J. HOWARD MACAULAY  
Associate Editor

SINCE our last Ceremonial, one of the most beloved members of the Degree Staff has passed away. Charles Crompton, Jr., passed away at his home in Lynn, Mass., the first of July. Charlie was for years an outstanding specialist on the Degree Staff. His specialty being tumbling and other acrobatic stunts. The Nobility will remember Charles best as the little fellow with the pushcart loaded with peanuts, or as the immigrant prancing around with the exploding firecrackers tied to his back. The members of the Degree Staff will remember Charles as our make-up man and we got to know him best while on the trip to the West Coast in 1932. On this trip, Charlie spent most of his time composing letters to his family back home and returned loaded with souvenirs for his wife and children. Charlie also provided free to the boys plenty of Crompton's headache powder, these being in great demand most of the time. We certainly have lost a fine Shriner and a good friend and may we extend our sympathy to his family through this column.

Friday, June 21, 1946 will always be outstanding as the date of the finest dinner ever served the Degree Staff at one of their business meetings. With the aid of Andy Seiler, who prepared the chowder and coffee, George Lewis, who brought a three-pound lobster for each of the boys, and the

Parker brothers, who prepared the French fries, bushels of them, the Degree Staff members certainly went to town. The entertainment was furnished by the individual members and I find this to be much better than any floor show in town. With each lobster a bowl of melted butter was served. How do you like that?

Our meetings are continuing through the summer, primarily in preparation for the St. John-Bangor trip. Practically all the Degree Staff members are taking the trip which assures us of many tall tales and weird experiences to be discussed during the winter.

Hope to see you all at our November Ceremonial.

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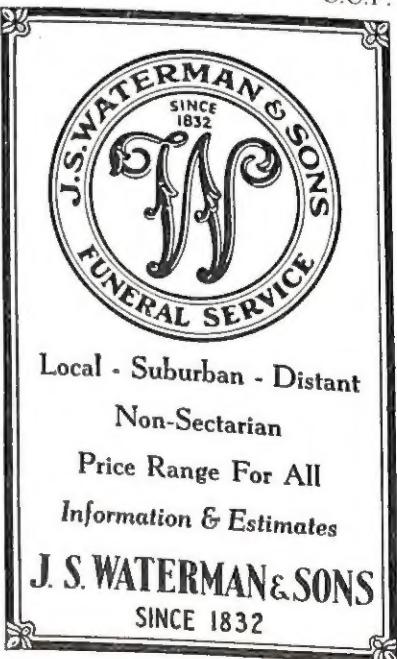
By NOBLE CHARLES C. FEARING  
*Associate Editor*

A FORMER member of the Band section, now residing on Cape Cod, Noble Frank Joseph, paid a visit to the band one recent rehearsal night, after an absence of many, many years. And was our face red when he called attention to the fact that in our history of the band, which we prepared and printed in the ALEPO NEWS last year, he was not mentioned as a charter member. We suddenly remembered that he was one of those hardy pioneers who made the trip to Buffalo with the Drum "Corpse" (as it was called then). While this is rather late to make amends, we humbly offer our apologies and hope he will pardon this *lapsus memoriae* (a slip of the memory to youse guys). So we have got that off our chest and feel some better.

Noble Louis Brightman, who is a Major in the U. S. Service, visited the band one rehearsal night not long ago, and received a warm welcome. Louis was in the Quartermasters Department (or we believe it is now called the Supply Department). We understand he has shipped out again, destination Germany. He doesn't know for how long a period. We wish him the best of luck, and hope he will be back in the clarinet section one of these days.

We are looking forward to that trip to St. John and Bangor on the seventh of August. We understand the yellow stockings will be replaced by the old white leggings. We were almost tempted to put a question mark after the word "white" because when we went up to headquarters to pick out a pair our size they sure needed cleaning. We scrubbed ours and then gave 'em a coat of Griffin Allwite (no commercial plug intended), and they came out as white as snow. It was sure worth the trouble.

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